

**SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

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**Annual Report**

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**OF THE  
Medical Officer of  
Health**

**FOR THE YEAR 1949**

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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Fifteenth Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1948	...	...	...	...	...	3570
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	£127,318
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£507
Population	...	...	...	...	...	12,020

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total		Males		Females
Births	206	...	100	...	106
Deaths	133	...	67	...	66
Birth Rate	17.1	...	Death Rate	11.06	
Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth		{	from Sepsis	...	Nil
			from other causes	...	Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age	...	...	...	...	5
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	24.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoæ (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	7

**Notifiable Diseases** (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are :—

		Total cases notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Dysentery	...	1	...	1	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	10	...	3	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Pneumonia	...	3	...	Nil	...	Nil
Measles	...	63	...	Nil	...	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever		2	...	2	...	Nil
Malaria	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	3	...	3	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	11	...	Nil	...	Nil
		—		—		—
		95	...	9	...	Nil
		—		—		—

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

There were no cases notified during the year.

### **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector : S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

### **SKEGNESS INFANT WELFARE.**

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Friday from 2—4 p.m. Doctor and health Visitor are in attendance, all other duties being carried out by members of the Voluntary Committee.

National Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil are dispensed.

Babies are weighed and have medical treatment when necessary, and are immunised against Diphtheria. The average number of mothers attending every week with their babies and small children is 70. Toddlers are now attending the clinic on alternate Mondays and have sunlight treatment.

**Immunisation and Vaccination** by any General Practitioner in the town.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for this excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year.

## **HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**

Arrangements are made to send infectious cases to the Isolation Hospitals at Boston, Lincoln or Grimsby.

The Regional Hospital Board has arranged for the regular attendance at Skegness and District Hospital for out-patient clinics, of a Physician, Surgeon, Orthopædic Surgeon, Gynecologist, Cadeologist, Paediatrician and Radiologist. An Ophthalmologist attends at the Lumley Hotel on 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. There is also a department for Physiotherapy.

## **Venereal Diseases.**

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

## **Tuberculosis.**

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

## **Nursing Homes.**

Sandune Nursing Home is providing very good service in the care of maternity cases.

## **GENERAL HEALTH.**

There is nothing outstanding to report as the general health of the town has been most satisfactory.

## **DAY NURSERY.**

The Nursery was open during the summer months and accommodated children from one to five years of age. The nursery is now carried on by Councillor Mrs. E. Barratt in a voluntary capacity and in her very capable hands is very successful. An epidemic of measles cut down the attendances very considerably in mid-summer. I think Mrs. Barratt's efforts in this direction are to be highly commended.

## **Scavenging.**

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried

out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

### **Shops Act.**

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

### **Housing.**

Good progress is still being made in the building of houses by your Council. I am pleased to note that more houses are to be erected for aged persons. Whilst I am aware that some overcrowding does exist it is difficult to assess the true position without a complete housing survey. The overcrowding problem has of course been eased over the past few years by the erection of new houses by your Council.

### **Report on Housing Acts Inspections.**

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

### **Water Supply.**

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity.



# CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

The sample of water marked Town Hall Tap collected on 23.2.49 9.15 a.m. and received here on 24.2.49 has been examined, and with the following results :—

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
<b>I. CHEMICAL.</b>		
Total solids (dried at 120 deg. C) ...	37.0	25.9
Combined chlorine (as Cl) ...	2.1	1.5
equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NaCl) ...	3.5	2.4
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	0.10	0.07
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites) ...	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen ...	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen ...	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 deg. C	0.010	0.007
Lead or Copper ...	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to CaCO)	12.0	8.4
Permanent hardness (equivalent to CaCO)	Nil	Nil
Total hardness (equivalent to CaC <sub>3</sub> ) ...	12.0	8.4

## II. BACTERIOLOGICAL.

The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates, at 20 deg.

—22 deg.C. for three days ...	3 per millilitre.
At 37 deg. C. for two days ...	1 per millilitre.
Faecal B. coli ...	not found in 100 ml.
Probably number of coliform bacilli present ...	none per 100 ml.
Streptococci ...	not found in 100 ml.
Cl. welchii (spores) ...	not found in 100 ml.

NOTE.—1 millilitre is approximately equal to 1.000028 cubic centimetres and the difference is so small that it may be disregarded for all ordinary purposes.

The chemical and bacteriological results show this sample to be of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity and the water is of excellent quality for drinking purposes.

Signed. R. C. Ralph,  
M.R.C.S., D.P.H.  
Laboratory Director,  
Clinical Research Association Ltd.

## **Meat and Food.**

The slaughterhouses controlled by the Ministry of Food and situate in Richmond Drive are visited by your Council's Sanitary Inspector during hours of slaughter.

The number of visits paid in connection with food inspection will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is stored or prepared for sale have been regularly inspected and are, on the whole, clean and well kept.

The adoption of Bye-laws relating to food hygiene should assist materially in the drive for cleaner food.

## **Milk Supply.**

Visits were paid to cowsheds in the district until the time when the powers vested in the local authority were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture. Six samples of milk were submitted for biological examination and all gave a negative result. Twenty-one samples of milk procured for analysis gave satisfactory results, and one sample was unsatisfactory.

## **Milk Special Designations Order.**

There is one licensed producer of pasteurised milk and one licensed dealer of T.T. milk. License was granted to an establishment to bottle accredited milk.

## **Ice Cream.**

Sixteen samples of ice-cream were sent for analysis and all complied with the prescribed test. It is very pleasing to note the considerable improvement which is being made in the production methods of this commodity.

## **Bakehouses.**

These are all of good type and construction and are kept in very good condition. No complaint was necessary against these during the year. There are no underground bakehouses in the area.

## **Sale of Food and Drugs.**

The County Council is the authority for carrying out this Act.



## Swimming Pools.

Copy of Analysis :—

### BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

Agar plate count, at 20°—22°C, for three days	= 0 per ml.
Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days	= 0 per ml.
Faecal coli ... ..	not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli	none per 100 ml.
Enterococci ... ..	not found in 100 ml.

The results show this water is of a high degree of bacterial purity and quite safe for bathing purposes.

## Factories.

The work carried on is chiefly dressmaking and millinery, joinery, motor and cycle repairs, photography and upholstery.

On the whole these places are well kept. It is only on occasions that it is necessary to take any action with regard to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And),  
Medical Officer of Health.

**1.—INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	56	43	7	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	12			
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	3				
Total ..		68	43	7	—

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .	4	4	4		
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	5	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. .. .	6	—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. .. .	7	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .	8	—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. .. .	9	1	1		1
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	10	1	1		1
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	11	2	2		
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	12	—	—		
Total ..	60	8	8		2

# Sanitary Administration :

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the year 1949.

<b>Total No. of New Houses Erected during the Year</b> ...	65
(I.) By the Local Authority ... ..	60
(II.) By other Local Authorities ... ..	Nil
(III.) By other bodies or persons ... ..	5
<b>1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—</b>	
(I.) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	333
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	620
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	Nil
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	Nil
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	333
<b>2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—</b>	
No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	322



### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	8
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	8
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings ... ..	Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ... ..	1

## Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.—

No. of site licences ... ..	13
No. of individual licences ... ..	Nil
No. inspected during year ... ..	Sites inspected periodically.
No. of contraventions remedied ... ..	4

## Bakehouses—

No. in district ... ..	9
†No. of inspections ... ..	36
No. of contraventions ... ..	2
Defects remedied ... ..	2

## Dairies and Milk Shops—

No. on register ... ..	8
No. of Pasteurising Licences ... ..	1
No. of Inspections ... ..	27
Contraventions remedied ... ..	1
No. of milk samples taken : Satisfactory ... ..	21
Unsatisfactory ... ..	1

## Ice Cream—

No. of manufacturers ... ..	22
No. of premises registered for sale ... ..	104
No. of contraventions ... ..	Nil
No. of samples taken : Satisfactory ... ..	16
Unsatisfactory ... ..	Nil

## Slaughter-houses—

No. on register ... ..	Ministry of Food
†No. of inspections ... ..	637
Contraventions of by-laws ... ..	Nil
Defects remedied ... ..	Nil

Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	1030	458	479	4341	534
Number inspected .. ..	1030	458	479	4341	534
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</b>					
Whole carcases condemned	23	8	2	9	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	60	12	52	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis .. .. .	4.0	13.0	.3	1.4	6.2
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>					
Whole carcases condemned	10	26	6	Nil	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	88	104	—	—	51
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis .. .. .	9.5	25.0	1.2	Nil	14.0

Offensive Trades—

No. of premises in district	...	...	...	...	} Non in district
†No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	
Contraventions of by-laws	...	...	...	...	
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	

Shops Act, 1934—

Number of shops inspected	...	...	...	...	48
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	5

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells—

New sunk	...	...	...	...	} Nil
Closed as polluted	...	...	...	...	



### Public Supply—

*Area supplied ... ..	Whole area
Percentage of houses internal supply ... ..	100%
communal supply ... ..	Nil
Number of samples obtained for analysis ... ..	3
(a) from wells ... ..	Nil
(b) from public supply ... ..	3
Any insufficiency and where ... ..	No

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

## Closets—

No. of houses with privy vaults in district ...	...	Nil
No. of houses with pail closets in district ...	...	33
No. of pail closets repaired ...	... ..	5
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles		Nil
No. of houses with water-closets in district	...	3443 <sup>8</sup>
No. of water-closets repaired	... ..	31

## Drains—

Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c. ....	51
,, unstopped, repaired, &c. ....	37
Waste, pipes, disconnected, repaired, &c. ....	11
Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired .....	5

## Sewers—

New lengths of sewer laid	...	...	...	...	—
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

### Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.—

Alterations to sewage disposal works	...	...	No
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	...	...	No.

## Cesspools—

Cesspools emptied, cleansed, &c. ... ..	Weekly
„ abolished ... ..	Nil

### Disinfection, etc.—

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	25
(a) ordinary infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	20
(b) tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rooms stripped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. of premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	7

## House Refuse—

No. of houses using dustbins ... ..	3565
Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger ? ... ..	Council
How frequently is refuse removed from each house ?	Weekly and Twice weekly
No. of complaints of non-removal ... ..	Practically Non-existent
Method of final disposal ... ..	Controlled Tip
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory ? ... ..	Quite

## Nuisances—

Total Number of Nuisances during year ... ..	51
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector ... ..	43
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued ... ..	3
Statutory notice not issued ... ..	5

## Details of Nuisances Abated—

	After Informal intimation.	After Statutory Notice
Smoke ... ..	5	—
Accumulation of refuse ... ..	11	—
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water ... ..	1	—
Foul pigs and other animals ... ..	7	—
Dampness ... ..	15	3
Yards repaved or repaired ... ..	12	—
Other nuisances ... ..	—	—

Supplementary Remarks as to Sanitary requirements of District, and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries, e.g., other food condemned, direct labour or contract scavenging, etc.

Infectious Disease Visits ... ..	20
Food Premises Visits ... ..	111
Rodent Control Visits ... ..	57
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	540









